

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of web tracking adjustment for guiding a moving web in a predetermined path of travel relative to a stationary frame, comprising:

 biasing a steering roller having a roller shaft in a gimbal direction to steer the web laterally; and[,]

 adjusting said bias to achieve [desired] tracking relative to a lateral constraint by applying a force relative to a lateral position on said roller shaft, the lateral constraint axially slidable relative thereto to impede aberrant lateral movement.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said steering roller has a lateral constraint, and said bias allows the web to ride against said lateral constraint without damaging the web.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of web tracking adjustment for guiding a moving web in a predetermined path of travel relative to a stationary frame, comprising:

 biasing a steering roller in a gimbal direction wherein said bias allows the web to ride against ~~a~~ the lateral constraint without damaging the web, and wherein said steering roller is mounted on a roller shaft, and said lateral constraint comprises an edge guide which is rotatably mounted on said roller shaft and is axially slidable relative thereto; and

 adjusting said bias to achieve [desired] tracking relative to a lateral constraint by applying a force relative to a lateral position.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of web tracking adjustment for guiding a moving web in a predetermined path of travel relative to a stationary frame, comprising:

biasing a steering roller in a gimbal direction wherein said bias allows the web to ride against ~~a~~ the lateral constraint without damaging the web, wherein said steering roller is biased by a spring having ~~an~~ a first spring end one and ~~an~~ a second spring end two mounted between the frame and one end of said steering roller such that said first spring end ~~one~~ is mounted to said frame, and said second spring end ~~two~~ is mounted to said steering roller, such that said spring applies a rotational force on said steering roller about a gimbal axis and

adjusting said bias to achieve [desired] tracking relative to a lateral constraint by applying a force relative to a lateral position.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said adjustment comprises applying a preload to said spring to achieve [desired] tracking relative to a lateral constraint by applying a force relative to a lateral position.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said spring is mounted to said frame by attaching a mounting nut to said spring first end one, and threading a screw through the frame, such that said mounting nut is threaded onto said screw to apply the desired pre-load on said spring.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of web tracking adjustment for guiding a moving web in a predetermined path of travel relative to a stationary frame, comprising:

biasing a steering roller in a gimbal direction;

adjusting said bias to achieve desired tracking, and further comprising a housing and spring flexures, wherein said housing is pivotally mounted to said frame such that said housing pivots about a gimbal axis, and wherein said steering roller is mounted on a roller shaft, which said shaft is in turn mounted to said housing by said spring flexures, such that said spring flexures allow said steering roller to pivot about a caster axis, while said housing allows said steering roller to pivot about a gimbal axis.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said steering roller is mounted to said stationary frame in such a manner as to allow said steering roller to pivot about a caster axis.

9. (Currently Amended) A web tracking apparatus for a guiding a moving web in a predetermined path of travel relative to a stationary frame, comprising:

a gimbaled steering roller, with a roller shaft, having a lateral constraint mounted on said roller shaft and axially slidable relative thereto;
a means for biasing said steering roller in a gimbal direction; and,
a means for adjusting said bias to achieve [desired] tracking relative to a lateral constraint by applying a force relative to a lateral position.

10. (Previously Presented) A web tracking apparatus for a guiding a moving web in a predetermined path of travel relative to a stationary frame, comprising:

a gimbaled steering roller having a lateral constraint;
a means for biasing said steering roller in a gimbal direction; and,
a means for adjusting said bias to achieve desired tracking, and
further comprising a housing and spring flexures, wherein said housing is pivotally mounted to said frame such that said housing pivots about a gimbal axis of said steering roller, and wherein said steering roller is mounted on a roller shaft, which said shaft is in turn mounted to said housing by said spring flexures, such that said spring flexures allow said steering roller to pivot about a caster axis, while said housing allows said steering roller to pivot about a gimbal axis.

11. (Currently Amended) A web tracking apparatus for a guiding a moving web in a predetermined path of travel relative to a stationary frame, comprising:

a gimbaled steering roller having a lateral constraint;
a means for biasing said steering roller in a gimbal direction,
wherein said means for biasing said steering roller in the gimbal direction comprises a spring having an a first spring end ~~one~~ and an a second spring end ~~two~~ mounted between the frame and one end of said steering roller such that said

first spring end ~~one~~ is mounted to said frame, and said second spring end ~~two~~ is mounted to said steering roller, such that said spring applies a rotational force on said steering roller about a gimbal axis; and

a means for adjusting said bias to achieve [desired] tracking relative to a lateral constraint by applying a force relative to a lateral position.

12. (Currently Amended) The web tracking apparatus of claim 11 wherein said means for adjusting said bias comprises applying a pre-load to said spring to achieve [desired] tracking relative to a lateral constraint by applying a force relative to a lateral position.

13. (Currently Amended) The web tracking apparatus of claim 12 wherein said spring is mounted to said frame by attaching a mounting nut to said first spring end ~~one~~, and threading a screw through the frame, such that said mounting nut is threaded onto said screw to apply the desired pre-load on said spring.

14. (Original) The web tracking apparatus of claim 9 wherein said steering roller is mounted on a roller shaft.

15. (Currently Amended) A web tracking apparatus for a guiding a moving web in a predetermined path of travel relative to a stationary frame, comprising:

a gimbaled steering roller having a lateral constraint wherein said steering roller is mounted on a roller shaft, and wherein said lateral constraint comprises an edge guide which is rotatably mounted on said roller shaft and is axially slidable relative thereto;

a means for biasing said steering roller in a gimbal direction; and,

a means for adjusting said bias to achieve [desired] tracking relative to a lateral constraint by applying a force relative to a lateral position.

16. (Previously Amended) The web tracking apparatus of claim 9 further comprising a stop for preventing said steering roller from rotating too far in the gimbal direction.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of web tracking adjustment for guiding a photoconductor loop in an electrostatographic reproduction apparatus on a predetermined path of travel relative to a stationary frame, comprising:

 biasing a steering roller in a gimbal direction; and,
 adjusting said bias to achieve [desired] tracking relative to a lateral constraint by applying a force relative to a lateral position.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said steering roller has a lateral constraint, and said bias allows the web to ride against said lateral constraint without damaging the web.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of web tracking adjustment for guiding a photoconductor loop in an electrostatographic reproduction apparatus on a predetermined path of travel relative to a stationary frame, comprising:

 biasing a steering roller in a gimbal direction wherein said steering roller has a lateral constraint and said bias allows the web to ride against said lateral constraint without damaging the web, and wherein said steering roller is mounted on a roller shaft, and said lateral constraint comprises an edge guide which is rotatably mounted on a said roller shaft and is axially slidable relative thereto; and

 adjusting said bias to achieve [desired] tracking relative to a lateral constraint by applying a force relative to a lateral position.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of web tracking adjustment for guiding a photoconductor loop in an electrostatographic reproduction apparatus on a predetermined path of travel relative to a stationary frame, comprising:

 biasing a steering roller in a gimbal direction; and,
 adjusting said bias to achieve desired tracking, and further comprising a housing and spring flexures, wherein said housing is pivotally mounted to said frame such that said housing pivots about a gimbal axis, and

wherein said steering roller is mounted on a roller shaft, which said shaft is in turn mounted to said housing by said spring flexures, such that said spring flexures allow said steering roller to pivot about a caster axis, while said housing allows said steering roller to pivot about a gimbal axis.